

GRAND OPENING FOR LONG BEACH APARTMENTS

By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, LACDMH Public Information Officer



On Thursday, September 10, 2015, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) celebrated the grand opening of the Long Beach and 21st Street Apartments in Long Beach. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was hosted by Meta Housing in conjunction with PATH Ventures. The apartments are the newest affordable housing development in the city.

LACDMH Director Marvin Southard, DSW, explained to the audience the importance of creating housing like this where people can reach out to one another and be responsible to each other. "People's lives get better because they live in healthy communities."



Located within Service Area 8 in Supervisorial District 4, the housing development consists of 41 total units with 21 specifically funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Coordinated through LACDMH, the MHSA-funded apartments are targeted toward homeless older adults with a psychiatric disorder.



Toni S., a wounded veteran, expressed her gratitude to everyone involved in building the housing that has become her new home. “It is safety, comfort, friendship, love... We’re a village here. You’ve created a community in this building. I feel human again,” she said tearfully to the audience of about 100 people. “Thank you so much for whatever part you did in this. We are grateful.”

The apartments were financed by LACDMH, the Housing Authority of the City of Long Beach, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, California Community Reinvestment Corporation, California Housing Finance Agency, California Tax Credit Allocation Committee and FHL Bank San Francisco.

